

Series I
Correspondence,
1932-1973

Box 7, Folder 17

February 7, 1963 -
June 15, 1963

Letters Received, 1963

Eller, 7 February 1963

Re publication of Bates' work

Copy of Eccles letter to Sam Morison, 19 April 1963

Admiral D. F. Smith, 30 April 1963

Comment on sinking of Japanese battleship MUSASHI.



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
WASHINGTON 25, D.C.

DIRECTOR OF NAVAL HISTORY

(Op 0989)

Op-09B9/rm

7 February 1963

Dear Rafe:

It is good to have both of your fine letters and to know that you are continuing to plug away on the foundations. One of these days I expect a letter will come through that will raise cheers, for persistence always pays.

I have investigated the possibilities of declassifying and republishing your studies in a form something like the Field book. The reaction has not been too favorable. First of all, the books were written for internal consumption and our analyses for the benefit of our own leaders. Budget justification was based upon these elements. When I try to get money for Government Printing Office publications, I have to justify on the needs within the Navy. Since this has already been taken care of through the distribution of fifteen hundred to two thousand copies of your expert studies, I can't use that justification.

There are other lesser reasons, but the foregoing seems to control at this time.

I hope you have a wonderful tour in California and look forward to hearing glowing reports from it.

All the best.

Judge
E. M. ELLER

Rear Admiral Richard W. Bates, USN (Ret.)
12 Mount Vernon Street
Newport, Rhode Island

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March 12, 1963

Dear Rafe:

I appreciated your card and the enclosed newspaper clippings. The global strategy discussion idea is still being copied in many quarters, and I think that is fine. I still believe that we have the best and most objective of such discussions, and we will try to keep it so.

Tonight we are having a dinner party to welcome the new Base Commander and his wife, Rear Admiral and Mrs. Arthur (Otts) Taylor. Our speaker for tomorrow will also be present. He is General John K. Gerhart, Commander-in-Chief of NORAD. Wish you were here to join us. Slim and Jo are coming.

Admiral Struble is in town visiting his daughter and is coming over to see me in a few minutes. This morning we had another of our Sea Power lectures, which is probably the best of the series thus far. I am enclosing a copy for you. I am definitely encouraged by the progressive improvement in these lectures this year, and hope that next year they will all be even better than the best of this year.

I had a dinner guest recently with whom you would have enjoyed talking. He lives up in Woodstock, Vermont. He was at one time editor of Foreign Affairs, but because of very bad hearing had to retire from that job. He still has a very deep interest in foreign affairs and national security, and has one of the keenest minds with which it has been my pleasure to be associated.

We will all be happy when you and the bluebirds return to Newport and the Clambake Club is sending forth its savory

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HENRY E. ECCLES
101 WASHINGTON STREET
NEWPORT, RHODE ISLAND
CODE 401 - 847-5863

19 March 1963

Dear Rafe:

Your cards from Hawaii and Tahiti have been most welcome and have given me a bit of nostalgia.

Newport has had a cold but open winter and even if at last we should get some snow, I am sure it would not last long.

I have been quite busy but without a sense of great accomplishment. Frederick Praeger still has not evaluated or decided on my book. Rutgers Press is interested.

In late April Isy and I will take off for Annapolis, Durham and Washington and by that time I hope to have some kind of an answer.

The enclosed papers give my ideas on some of the events of the last few months. Of course, the central issue in both of these is that of "Sound Military Decision", or if you prefer the modern terminology, "The Exercise of Command Control."

Fortune's articles on the TFX Contract and Hanson Baldwin's Saturday Post article of March 9th are both excellent even if not encouraging.

I think that 8 billion for a so-called Air Force-Navy plane is nonsense and indicates a search for the kind of all-purpose perfection that we are not apt to get. And yet without a doubt, the McNamara regime is accomplishing some worthwhile things.

I have played a bit of bridge at the Reading Room and hope to play more.

St. Michael's is in the process of being taken over and we are trying to work out a good set of by-laws for its management. Next week we hope to narrow down the candidates for Headmaster from nine to three or four and then have some interviews.

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19 March 1963

Tom Robbins seems to be enjoying St. Thomas.

The INS seems to be having trouble getting organized for real work. Reitzel has switched over to a consultant and is going to write a book. The enclosed comments from Parkinson and another skeptic named Pendred seem appropriate.

And with these cheerful thoughts in which Isabel joins me, I will sign off.



RADM R. W. Bates, USN (Ret.)
The Bohemian Club
San Francisco, California

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EARL M. THACKER
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

2400 KALAKAUA AVENUE

March 19, 1963

Dear Dickey:

I have your note and appreciate your problem.

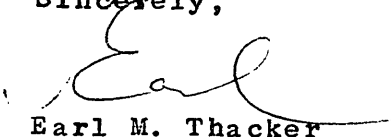
However, I have gotten allergic to work and want to just sail my boat, ride my horses and love my women.

I enjoyed the visit we had at the hotel and will look forward to seeing you again next week.

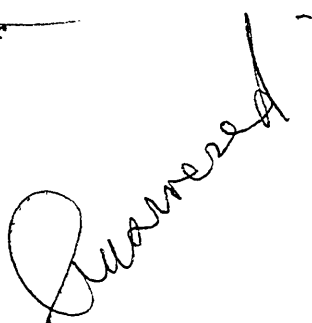
I am leaving for Maui tomorrow and on Friday, I will fly from there to Molokai to hunt Saturday and Sunday. Roy W. Howard of the Scripps-Howard newspapers will be with me and we will return to Honolulu Sunday evening.

Best Aloha,

Sincerely,


Earl M. Thacker

Mr. Richard Bates
Royal Hawaiian Hotel
Honolulu, Hawaii



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bc: Admiral Bates

HENRY E. ECCLES
101 WASHINGTON ST.
NEWPORT, R. I.

19 April 1963

Rear Admiral S. E. Morison, USNR (Ret'd)
44 Brimmer Street
Boston, Massachusetts

Dear Sam:

Thank you for the copy of The Two-Ocean War which arrived last week. It is a fitting capstone to the monumental task that has occupied you for so long.

I have read the text enough to see that you have paid careful attention to data which became available after your first publication.

Thank you particularly for the splendid conclusion. Naturally, it was impossible to write this chapter until you had given much thought to the whole series. However, I realize how difficult it is to make a selection from such a splendid group. Obviously space must limit the extent of your comment.

But in the most important features you have done what was so urgently needed; that is, provide a balanced fine appraisal of King, Nimitz, Spruance, and Halsey. In each case I feel you struck the right note.

As a minor exception, from my experience and the opinion of some others who served with him, I would question your favorable appraisal of Barbey in your summation. In my estimation, Hill, Wilkinson, Hewitt, Kirk were all far superior to Barbey. I also give Hewitt a high place in your top bracket.

Sometime, perhaps in a somewhat different context, it might be well to comment on the relation of the officers in Washington and in key shore establishments to those in the strategic and tactical jobs. I think of this because of the great changes which have taken place in the overall command and administration of the Armed Forces. Today as shown by many incidents including the T.F.X., an enormous amount of "military and operational" control and decision is being exercised by civilians with no operational background or experience.

Most of our top men in the Navy Department had operational experience, understanding and intuition, and this was a vitally

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RADM S.E. Morison
19 April 1963
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important factor in the creation and effective sustained support of the tactical commanders who carried out the strategic concepts and plans of King and Nimitz and their top assistants. I knew and worked with Horne, Farber, Moreell, Cochrane, Mills, among others and these men had an operational sense. With the exception of Ben Moreell, all were thoroughly at home on the bridge of a ship. Their contemporary counterparts now speak with less and less authority in the Councils of DOD. Thus it might be useful to remind the readers of history of this essential linkage between the basic resources of a nation and the actual successful operation of combat forces. This point cannot be adequately brought home by the Administrative histories simply because these books are not widely read.

This element of the sources of combat effectiveness should be stressed by the operational histories.

I am not optimistic that such an approach will revise the trend toward greater and greater centralization and civilian operational control--but as the CPO in a grounded motor sailer at the Naval Academy my plebe summer shouted when Old Andy questioned his order "Throw the anchor over!" when it had no line on it, "Throw it overboard anyhow, it may do some good!"

And with that happy thought and my hearty thanks for your splendid book,

Always sincerely,

Henry Eccles

HE:t

1122



30 April 1963

Dear Admiral:

Many, many thanks for your kind note concerning my eye and I am happy to report that recovery has been normal but it has been a dreadful experience.

It was good seeing you out here again and any assistance that we provided was no trouble to us and hope that your trip out here was as you wished it.

Out plans remain unchanged and we leave the middle of May to join CORAL SEA in Guam. My wife is accompanying me and we are both looking forward to going out west. If I can be of any assistance out there, please let me know.

I wish you very much success in the completion of your book "Leyte Gulf". It was my great privilege as Air Group Commander on ENTERPRISE to participate in all three phases of this battle and my Air Group, Air Group TWENTY was given credit for the sinking of MUSASHI.

There was one unfortunate aspect of this attack on MUSASHI and that was I had eight torpedo planes on this strike and as was our custom, we sent four in on each bow. All eight torpedoes hit, four on each side and instead of turning over which it should have done, had the hits not been so evenly divided, it stopped and settled in the water. We had in effect, taken care of the counter-flooding.

It was a pleasure seeing you again and hope to see you again in Newport or out here.

Faithfully yours,

D. F. SMITH, Jr.
Rear Admiral, U. S. Navy

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CLAIBORNE PELL
RHODE ISLAND

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, D.C.

May 24th, 1963

Rear Admiral R. W. Bates, USN (Ret.)
12 Mt. Vernon Street
Newport, Rhode Island

Dear Batesy:

Thank you for your letter of May 22nd, 1963.

I must say your points seem very, very justified. I am now getting in touch with Colonel Benade and will do everything else that I can to be of help.

I am glad you wrote me. That is just what you should do when you bear in mind I am not only your friend, but also your Senator.

Let us keep our fingers crossed.

All best wishes.

Ever sincerely,



Claiborne Pell

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13 June 1963

Dear Rafe,

Many many thanks for your letter. It was good to hear from you. Needless to say we are delighted at the turn of events which prompted it. This was one time when it was mighty good to see one's name in print.

I was interested to hear of your varied endeavors - not only writing and lecturing, but the Clambake Club, too. I well remember my attendance as your guest at a 4th of July clambake. Although I started out as a New Englander that was my first and I am sure I started at the top rung for clambakes.

I have been in the operations officer business most of the time since leaving the War College, a carrier, carrier division, numbered fleet, and now here with time out to command a seaplane tender and a carrier. It has been a busy time and hard to believe I left the college eleven years ago.

We have been here two years and I ^{had} have a relief all lined up, but then he was selected too, and now we have no idea when or where we will move.

Trust this finds you hale and hearty and that we may have an opportunity to see you in Newport one of these days. Peg joins me in sending you our very best.

Sincerely,



P. E. HARTMANN
CAPTAIN, U. S. NAVY

Rear Admiral Richard W. Bates, USN (RET)
12 Mt. Vernon Street
Newport, R. I.

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SALVE REGINA COLLEGE
NEWPORT, RHODE ISLAND

Office of the President

June 13, 1963

Rear Admiral Richard W. Bates, U.S.N. (Ret.)
12 Mount Vernon Street
Newport, Rhode Island

Dear Admiral Bates:

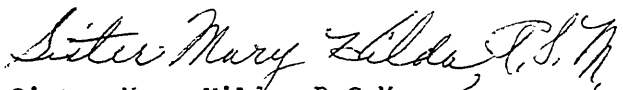
It was thoughtful of you to write me following our Thirteenth Annual Commencement. I was interested in your comments.

Actually, the fact that my name does not appear in the program is not part of any anti-feminist attitude within or without the College. As president, I participate in so many activities during the year that it has become custom for me to honor our senior chaplain by requesting him to extend greetings and present the candidates at the Commencement. You were gracious, though, to raise the question.

I am sorry that we did not have an opportunity for even a brief visit on June 3.

With all good wishes,

Very sincerely yours,


Sister Mary Hilda, R.S.M.
President

SMH/hw

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United States Senate

WASHINGTON, D.C.

June 14th, 1963

The Honorable Richard B. Russell
Chairman
Armed Services Committee
212 Old Senate Office Building
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Senator Russell:

I should like to bring to your attention the situation of my good friend and fellow Newporter, Rear Admiral Richard W. Bates, USN (Ret.), who is desirous of obtaining special legislation in regard to his retirement pay.

Rear Admiral Bates was recalled to active duty as a commodore and served in that capacity for nine years. When he was originally called back to active duty, there were no rear admiral billets open. Therefore, he was offered the rank of commodore.

He was at that time the only commodore in the U. S. Navy and his pay was the same as that of rear admiral lower half. During this time he worked at the Naval War College, where he completed seven volumes on Command in War, which was stopped in 1958 owing to a shortage of funds. His work is believed to be of very great value. Admiral Bates is considered as a leading authority on naval history.

The Honorable Richard B. Russell

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June 14th, 1963

Unfortunately, there is no legislative provision which would raise a commodore to the rear admiral upper half pay grade after any number of years of service.

Therefore, I should much appreciate it if the Armed Services Committee would give thought to this proposal in order that Rear Admiral Bates would be treated in an entirely equitable manner.

Warm regards.

Sincerely,

Claiborne Pell

bc: Rear Admiral Richard W. Bates (USN, Ret.)

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15 June 1963

Rear Admiral Richard W. Bates, USN(Ret)
12 Mount Vernon Street
Newport, Rhode Island

Dear Admiral Bates:

Thank you very much for your expression of congratulations. Being selected was a very gratifying experience, but with a heavy undertone of added responsibility in the atmosphere of increasing difficulty in getting our military needs understood.

I have felt for a good many years that my tour working for you in analysis was a most profitable time for me. Particularly have I been aware of this during the past year and a half, during which time I have been the Navy's "Planner" in the Joint Staff arena. As you probably know, the three service planners and the Joint Staff planner critically examine JCS papers in order to resolve as many as possible of the conflicts before they reach the Chiefs, and to improve their quality. My War College experience, and so much more, my experience in your shop in analysis and reasoning, have been by far the most worthwhile training that I received for this work. In a couple of weeks I move up to Assistant to the Director, Strategic Plans Division, and continue essentially the same type of work for approximately another year.

My wife's mental illness became more severe with passing years and in 1952 she entered a

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hospital with prospects of remaining for life. I obtained a divorce in 1955, and remarried. My new wife was a widow who lost her husband in the Korean War. She with a daughter and I with my two boys started a family that has now expanded to six children -- two more girls and a boy. We feel we have done quite well!

It was indeed a pleasure to learn that you continued writing until 1959. I knew that you remained on in Newport, but did not know that you were able to continue this most worthwhile work for so many more years.

With warmest regards, and very best wishes for continued efforts in support of the War College, I am

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "David Richardson". The signature is fluid and elegant, with a large, sweeping "D" and a long, horizontal flourish at the end.

D. C. RICHARDSON

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